

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Spiderwort

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Jenna Saltanovitz

Samantha Hayes

June Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily

www.stateparks.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Tuesday June 1

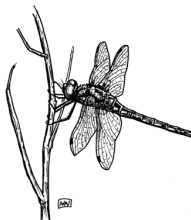
10am Fossils, Rocks, & Minerals. Come and discover the types of fossils that you may find in the Indiana Dunes. Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium for a 30 min. program.

Wednesday June 2

10am A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! DG

Thursday June 3

3pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces on to the Nature Center front deck for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! JS



Friday June 4

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations! Visit the Nature Center this morning for a fun look at the science of bird banding. We'll have many birds in the hand and up close for all to see. Check us out on the Nature Center front deck. Great family fun before hitting the beach! BB

3pm Wetland Wander. Meet Jenna at the Nature Center for an afternoon exploration of the dune swamps. We'll bring some dip nets to explore the life beneath the water. Join us! JS

Saturday June 5

10am Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

4pm Campground Critters! Meet the Interpreter at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) for an afternoon of critter fun. We'll explore the different dune critters that you'll be camping with this early June weekend. Great fun for the kids! JS

Sunday June 6

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

2pm Birds of Indiana Dunes. This afternoon, a special presentation on the amazing bird life found in the dunes will take place at the Porter County Visitor Center (1 mile south of park on SR 49). Dr. Ken Brock will speak on the changes that have occurred that are in his new book *Birds of Indiana Dunes*. There will also be a book signing afterwards. Come on over and check it out!

3pm Reptile Review! What's it like being a reptile in the dunes? Find out in this fun 45 minute discovery program on the Nature Center front deck. We'll discuss the turtles, snakes, and lizards of the park! Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these types of animals. JS

Monday June 7

10am Nature Stories and Tall Tales! Help the naturalist weave some of the best dune stories you've heard! Meet on the Nature Center Program Deck for this great family fun hour. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

Tuesday June 8

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

3pm Dunes Tooth Sleuth! Meet Jenna on the Nature Center Program Deck to become a tooth sleuth! We'll take a look at the animal skulls of the dunes and use some detective skills to figure out what our critters are eating. Total time about 30 minutes. JS

Wednesday June 9

10am Green's the Theme! Join us in the Nature Center for a look at what you can do to turn your life green. We'll look at what you can do in your own home to help save money and help the environment. We'll even have an activity for the kids! Join us! DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

Thursday June 10

9:30am Wetland Warblers. Meet at the Nature Center for a morning look at the warblers that call the Dune wetlands home. We'll venture to the Wilson Shelter Boardwalk and be back within an hour. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

3pm Tree ID Spree Come explore the dune forests as we point out the different trees and their uses in the dune forest. Meet at the Nature Center. JS

Friday June 11

10am A Breathtakingly Beautiful Hike! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time just over an hour. Meet at the Campground Shelter. Parking available at Campground Gate for those coming from town. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

4pm Sand Art! Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for some sand art fun. Explore sand from around the world, and make your own sand art craft to take home! Great fun for the kids! DG

8:30pm New Moon! No, not the vampire movie! Join David for an evening adventure into the dark woodlands. No moon will light our way tonight. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour, easy walk. DG

Saturday June 12

Singing Sand Star Show Tonight!

10am Shipwreck Stories. Today marks the 99th Anniversary of the sinking of the J.D. Marshall. Take anchor in the Nature Center for this interesting and interactive program that looks at this Lake Michigan tragedy. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

4pm Google Me A Star! Visit the Nature Center this afternoon for a day-time primer for this evening's star gaze. Using new technology we'll explore the night time constellations that we'll be looking for this evening. Guaranteed no clouds! Join us in the auditorium. DG

8:30pm Singing Sands Star Show! Join us for our annual event. Meet local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society for a night of star gazing. Special telescopes will be set up as well as periodic constellation talks. Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach, near the pavilion. Activities going on through 11pm. Optimal star gazing after 9:30pm.

Sunday June 13

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

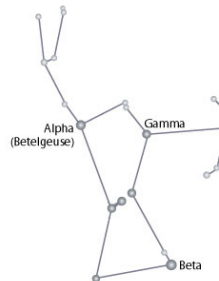
3pm Spiderwort Saunter. Lace up the hiking boots and join us for a high dunes search for one of the unusual flowering plants in the park... spiderwort. We'll look for it, and other flowers on the trail. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour hike. DG

Monday June 14

10am A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Nature Center for an hour stroll to check out the beaver lodge, and to look for some signs that they've been around! Join us for a great time! DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

3pm Owl Puke! Come explore the world of owls this afternoon at the Nature Center. First we'll look at the owls of Indiana Dunes, and then get your own chance to dissect your own owl pellet! Great fun for the kids. Join us! JS



Tuesday June 15

10am Sands of Time. Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. We'll explore the sands of the dunes, as well as other sands from around the world! Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. DG

3pm The Incredible Journey! Imagine being a droplet of water... where would you go!? Discover the life of a drop of water with the Naturalist at the Nature Center Program deck this afternoon! Record your journey, and make a special bracelet that you can take home afterwards. Great program for the kids! JS

Wednesday June 16

10am Tour De Dunes. Experience the park by bike this morning. Bring your bicycle and meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a tour through the park by bike. We'll make some stops to enjoy the scenery and other sights along the way. DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

Thursday June 17

9:30am Thursday Tanager Trek. Tanagers are back from the tropics and can be found here in the Dunes. Join us for an hour stroll looking for these brightly colored birds. Meet at the Campground Gate. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

3pm Wetland Wander. Meet Jenna at the Nature Center for an afternoon exploration of the dune swamps. We'll bring some dip nets to explore the life beneath the water. Join us! JS

Friday June 18

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet for an hour to get you started or help you along. JS

4pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces to the Nature Center Program Deck for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! JS

7pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the volunteer naturalist Deanna at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time!

Saturday June 19

10am Indiana Dunes' Rocks! Meet at the Nature Center and check out the forces that built The Dunes. It should be some real fossil fun!

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. DG

3pm Cactus Crawl! Meet the Naturalist outside the Beach Pavilion for an afternoon jaunt into the cactus fields of Indiana Dunes. We'll explore this special dune habitat along the way. Total time about one hour. DG

8:30pm Owl Prowl! Swoop down on the Nature Center for an evening in the woods. We'll enjoy the sights and sounds of twilight in the forest. Bring a flashlight for the walk back to the campsite. Kids under 12, please bring a parent. DG

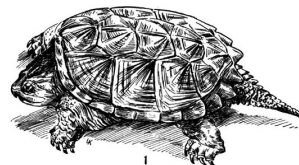
Sunday June 20

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. JS

3pm Hopping Herps! Hop on in to the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon for a fun look at the amphibians of the dunes. We'll explore their special adaptations to survive and have the kids see them up close! Bring the entire family! JS



Monday June 21

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. DG

3pm Mapping the Dunes Through Time. Using new technology, join us in the Nature Center Auditorium and explore how the dunes have changed as we overlay historical maps for a comparison to what we see today. Great program for the history buffs. DG

Tuesday June 22

10am Sands of Time. Join Dale for a fascinating look at how the dunes were formed. We'll explore the sands of the dunes, as well as other sands from around the world! Meet in the auditorium for this 30 minute, interactive program.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. DG

4pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this new 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. It was produced in 2009 by PBS and shows great scenes from your favorite parks. Join us!

Wednesday June 23

10am A Breathtakingly Beautiful Hike!

Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time is just over an hour. Meet at the Campground Shelter. DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. JS

3pm Scatology! Do you know the tips on turds, facts on feces, or the data on dung!? Plop into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the science of what animals leave behind. Prizes for those that know their scat! Great family fun! JS SH

Thursday June 24

10am Dunes Creek Restoration Tour. You may notice the construction going on now at the main beach parking lot. Meet the interpreter at the Campground Gate for a 45-minute tour of some of the creek restoration, or "daylighting," that is just finishing up. DG

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. SH

4pm Scales and Tales! Slither into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the reptiles of Indiana Dunes. A great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these animals. JS

Friday June 25

10am Dune Swamp Safari! Join Sam for a morning exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland and explore the plants and animals that call this place home. We'll be out for about an hour. Great family fun! SH

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. JS

4pm Sand Art! Join a naturalist outside the Nature Center for some sand art fun. Explore sand from around the world, and make your own sand art craft to take home! Great fun for the kids! JS

8:30pm Twilight Time! Twilight is a special time of day. Meet the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for an easy 45 minute stroll into the dune woodlands in search of the animals that are beginning to awaken! Bring flashlights for the walk back. Children under 12, please bring a parent.

Saturday June 26

10am Lion Hunt!! We have lions in these hills... ant lions! Meet outside the Nature Center as we head off on an ant lion safari, in search of these unique dune critters. Total time about one hour. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. BB

4pm Turtle Time. Scoot your carapaces to the Nature Center Front Deck for a special look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll look at their special adaptations that allow them to survive here! SH

8:30pm Candlelight History Stroll! It's a special night, as the full "Strawberry" moon will rise over the high dunes tonight. Join the interpretive naturalists for a special candlelight saunter into the growing darkness. We'll explore the fascinating history stories that have captivated generations. Children under 12, please bring your parent. No flashlights needed! BB JS

Sunday June 27

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations.. Check out our native birds up close this morning as park interpreter and bird bander, Brad Bumgardner, explores the science of bird banding and the research we learn. Meet on the Nature Center front deck for up close and amazing views. BB

11am Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, June 14 for details. JS

3pm Critter Feeding Time! Scoot on over to the Nature Center Auditorium some critter feeding fun! Learn what some of the Nature Center animals eat and maybe even get to feed some yourself! Great family fun! JS